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INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE: VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND REPORT OF THE ADVISORY GROUP

Note by the secretariat

The present note contains the report of the Advisory Group of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People on its fourth session, held in Geneva from 15 to 16 April 1999, including its recommendations for grants from the Voluntary Fund which have been approved by the Coordinator of the Decade, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

GE.99-13787 (E)

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY GROUP OF THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ON ITS FOURTH SESSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GRANTS APPROVED ON 8 JUNE 1999 BY THE COORDINATOR OF THE DECADE, THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Introduction

1. The Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People was established pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 48/163 of 21 December 1993, 49/214 of 23 December 1994 and 50/157 of 21 December 1995, all of which concern the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. In accordance with resolution 48/163, the Secretary-General was requested to establish a voluntary fund for the Decade and was authorized "to accept and administer voluntary contributions from Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other private institutions and individuals for the purpose of funding projects and programmes during the Decade".

2. In accordance with paragraph 24 of the programme of activities for the Decade (General Assembly resolution 50/157 annex), one of the tasks of the Coordinator of the Decade, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, is to "encourage the development of projects and programmes, in collaboration with Governments and taking into account the views of indigenous people and the appropriate United Nations agencies, for support by the Voluntary Fund for the Decade".

3. In accordance with paragraph 23 of the programme of activities, the Advisory Group was created in April 1996 to assist the Coordinator of the Voluntary Fund.

4. The Advisory Group is composed of Ms. Erica I. Daes, Chairperson of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations; Mr. Michael Dodson (Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Advisory Group); Ms. Naomi N. Kipuri (recently appointed by the Secretary-General); Mr. José Carlos Morales Morales (recently appointed by the Secretary-General); Ms. Tove S. Petersen and Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, members of the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations; and Mr. José Luís Goméz del Prado (recently appointed by the Coordinator of the Decade).

I. FOURTH SESSION OF THE ADVISORY GROUP

5. The fourth session of the Advisory Group was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 15 to 16 April 1999. At its 1st meeting, the Advisory Group adopted its agenda, timetable and work programme. The Advisory Group held four private meetings. The Group also met for one hour with interested donors.

6. The Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Bertie G. Ramcharan, made a statement at the 1st meeting.

7. The Group was informed that, on the basis of the recommendations made at the inter-sessional meeting on the Fellowship Programme held on 3 December 1998, funds were available to allow the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to implement the relevant part of the Cost Plan for 1999 and that the 1999 Fellowship Programme could be implemented without delay. The list of contributions received and available for allocation by the Group at its fourth session is contained in annex I.

8. The Group was also informed that the seminar in Costa Rica could also be organized, as recommended by the Group in 1998.

9. Unfortunately, the Group could not meet for more than two days during the session because of the limited resources available.

10. As an insufficient amount of new contributions had been received, other activities to be implemented in 1999 within the framework of the Decade, including grants to projects proposed by indigenous organizations and communities and subregional seminars and workshops, had to be postponed until pledges made and new contributions were paid. As soon as sufficient funds were available the recommended order of priority for expenditure is the following: project grants (contingency lists I and II, see paras. 22-23 below); seminars (Atlanta, see para. 28 below; African subregional seminars, see para. 29 below).

11. The Group noted with satisfaction that most of the recommendations adopted at its third session in April 1998 had been implemented, in particular those concerning project grants.

12. The four Fellows who participated in the 1998 Indigenous Fellowship Programme met with some members of the Group, who were pleased with the selection made and implementation of the Programme.

13. The Group noted with satisfaction that the work on the United Nations Guide for Indigenous Peoples was continuing. The members have been requested to submit their comments on the draft to the Indigenous Project Team at OHCHR by the end of May.

14. The Group was informed by the Indigenous Project Team about developments concerning the organization of the workshop for research and higher education institutions focusing on indigenous issues in education, as requested by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1997/32. The workshop, to be held in 1999 in Costa Rica, is expected to cost about US$ 60,000 (see also para. 8 above).

15. The Group briefly reviewed the situation of narrative and financial reports on the use of 12 grants recommended in 1997 and 13 grants recommended in 1998 for projects for indigenous organizations and communities. The Group will continue to review the reporting on previous grants at its next session on the basis of the financial and narrative reports received.

II. PROGRAMMES UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR 1999

A. OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme

16. The Group approved recommendations made by four of its members who attended its inter-sessional meeting held in Geneva in December 1998 concerning the selection of four indigenous Fellows to participate in the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme in 1999 (see also para. 7 above).

17. The Advisory Group recommended that the deadline for the receipt of new applications to participate in the Indigenous Fellowship Programme in 2000 be strictly observed and that this be stressed to applicants.

18. As far as the selection of externally funded Fellows was concerned, the Advisory Group reaffirmed that the applicants should meet the criteria for selection and that they should go through the normal selection procedure established for the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme. Externally funded candidates were encouraged to apply by the deadline. However, taking into account the existing fund-raising difficulties, the Advisory Group indicated its willingness to also consider applications from externally funded candidates submitted before its annual meeting, if necessary.

19. The Advisory Group recalled its previous guideline according to which the number of externally funded Fellows should not exceed the number of Fellows funded by the United Nations Voluntary Fund.

20. The Advisory Group recommended that the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme should be funded under the regular budget for Advisory Services of OHCHR.

21. The Group recommended that, immediately before or after the October 1999 session of the Commission on Human Rights working group on the "Draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples", the Chairperson and at least two other members of the Group, if in Geneva, should briefly meet in inter-sessional meeting, in order to consider new applications for the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme for the year 2000, provided that enough money is left in the Fund to cover the costs of daily subsistence allowance (DSA).

B. Project grants to indigenous communities and organizations for 1999

22. Should new contributions be received, projects should be considered as a priority for expenditure.

23. The Group recommended that, subject to the availability of funds, the project grants recommended in the first contingency list should be awarded according to the order of priority proposed by the Group, for a maximum total of about US$ 150,000. The Group also recommended a second list of projects which could also be funded (see annex II).

24. The Group examined 94 applications for project grants received before the deadline and falling within the mandate of the Fund in the light of the criteria for selection and the guidelines established by the Advisory Group, including that the beneficiaries must be indigenous peoples and that the projects must be from indigenous peoples' organizations approved by the Secretary-General.

25. Following a previous recommendation, the secretariat did not submit for consideration by the Group 30 other applications received which were clearly outside the mandate of the Fund.

26. The secretariat of the Fund will reply to all applicants and suggest to the unsuccessful applicants that, for the projects which have not been approved because they were outside the mandate of the Fund, they contact another United Nations organization, if relevant, or a bilateral agency working in their country.

27. In order to facilitate the work of its secretariat, the Group recommended that the application form be sent to possible applicants and returned duly filled on the basis of all criteria and guidelines adopted by the Group. The secretariat will indicate 1 October 1999 as the deadline for receipt of new applications.

C. Meetings

28. The Group strongly supported the organization of the second workshop for indigenous journalists in Atlanta, United States of America, should sufficient funding be made available, in cooperation with the Carter Center, and suggested that the expenditures to be funded by the Fund be scaled down.

29. The Group strongly supported the organization of subregional seminars in Africa, however it proposed to postpone consideration of two subregional seminars in Mali and South Africa until sufficient new contributions are received and the Group is persuaded that the applicants for grants to attend the seminars are indigenous representatives.

III. FUND RAISING

30. During the fourth session the Group met with representatives of interested and donor Governments, including those of Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Norway, Paraguay and the Russian Federation. The Chairman and the other members of the Group expressed their gratitude for the donors' generous contributions and recommended a sustained effort and, if possible, an increase in the contributions. The Group encouraged even symbolic contributions as an expression of interest in funding projects and programmes during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

31. The Group expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Netherlands for the support given to the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme by financially supporting a Junior Professional Officer to act as coordinator of the Programme within the Indigenous Project Team. It also expressed its appreciation to the Government of Norway for financially supporting the former JPO coordinator and to the coordinator for his efficient work in this capacity

in 1997-1998. The Group further expressed its appreciation to the Government of France for having contributed in 1998 towards the cost of a consultant, Ms. Annick Thebia-Melsan, to provide expertise on higher education and indigenous identity and values.

32. The members of the Group recommended to the High Commissioner to send an urgent letter of appeal to donors for additional contributions to be paid, as soon as possible, in order to allow the Fund to finance activities, projects and programmes, within its mandate, in particular those approved in the Cost Plan for 1999.

Annex I

VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE
OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Account IV

I. CONTRIBUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE FOURTH SESSION
OF THE ADVISORY GROUP

As at 6 April 1999

Country	Amount (US$)	Acct.	Paid in NY/GE	Local currency	Paid on	Voucher No.
Cyprus	1 000	IV	GE		12 May 1998	84000060331
Estonia	1 000	IV	GE		21 Sept. 1998	84000062311
Greece	3 000	IV	GE		14 Apr. 1998	84000059930
Japan	37 000 a/	IV	NY		29 Jan. 1999	BO 44086
New Zealand	13 232	IV	GE		9 Nov. 1998	84000063029
Norway	63 906	IV	GE		23 Dec. 1998	84000063697

NGOs and individuals	Amount (US$)	Acct.	Paid in NY/GE	Local currency	Paid on	Voucher No.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission	5 839 a/	IV	GE	AUS$ 10 000	26 June 1998	84000061145
Intuition	50	IV	GE		1 May 1998	84000060187
Music,	150	IV	GE		7 Aug. 1998	84000061815
Inc.	50 a/	IV	GE		1 Aug. 1998	84000061991
DEA	50 a/	IV	GE		6 Oct. 1998	84000062542
Sequoia records	100	IV	GE		7 Jan. 1999	94000001244

GRAND TOTAL = US$ 125,377

II. PLEDGES RECEIVED

Country	Amount (US$)	Pledged in NY/GE	Local currency	Pledged on
Bolivia	1 000.00	NY		4-5 Nov. 1998
Denmark	153 000.00	GE		Nov. 1998
Greece b/	3 000.00	NY		4-5 Nov. 1998
Tunisia	951.47	NY		4-5 Nov. 1998
TOTAL	157 951.47			

Notes

a/ Contributions available for grants under the first contingency list.

b/ Official Receipt Voucher by the United Nations Treasurer established on 15 April 1999; contribution available for grants under the first contingency list.

Annex II

PROJECT GRANTS RECOMMENDED BY THE ADVISORY GROUP OF THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AT ITS FOURTH SESSION, IN ORDER OF PRIORITY
(in US$)

First contingency list

AFRICA	AMERICAS	ASIA	EUROPE	OCEANIA
1)10 000(P.10)*	2)15 000(P.42)	3)10 000(P.19)	4) 10 000(P.35)	5)10 000(P.92)
6)20 000(P.13)	7)5 000(P.52)	8)10 000(P.25)	9)1 000(P.68)	
10)10 000(P.14)	11)10 000(P.4)	12)10 000(P.41)		
13)10 000(P.39)	14)10 000(P.67)	15)10 000(P.63)		

TOTAL = US$ 151,000

Second contingency list

16)2,500(P.85)	17)7,300(P.37)	18)10,000(P.7)
19)10,000(P.72)	20)12,200(P.17)	
	21)10,000(P.48)	
	22)10,000(P.22)	
	23)15,400(P.5)	
	24)3,600(P.49)	

TOTAL = US$ 81,000

*** P = project No.**

Annex III

LIST OF PROJECT GRANTS APPROVED BY THE ADVISORY GROUP AT ITS FOURTH SESSION

Project No.	Country	Organization or community	Title/subject of project	Indigenous populations represented	Request (US$)	Decision on grant (US$)
4	Brazil	União das Nações Indigenas de Acre e Sul do Amazonas and Coordenação das Organizações Indigeans da Amazónia Brasileira	Human rights and communication between the indigenous populations in the Brazilian Amazon	Indigenous populations in the Brazilian Amazon	25 000	10 000 a/
5	Guatemala	Defensoria Maya	Participation of the Maya populations in the implementation of the peace treaties	Maya	79 815	15 400
7	Philippines	Apo Sandawa Lumadnong Panaghiusa sa Cotabato, Inc.	Consolidation and expansion of ASLPC as regional network of tribal organizations	Tribal communities	103 300	10 000
10	Rwanda	Première fondation de la nation (PFN)	Programme to promote participation of Batwa youth and women for their rights and development	Batwa	50 000	10 000
13	Nigeria	Niger Delta Environment and Relief Foundation (NIDEREF)	Vocational training programme for internally displaced indigenous women and youth in Ogoniland	Ogoni	29 678	20 000

Project No.	Country	Organization or community	Title/subject of project	Indigenous populations represented	Request (US$)	Decision on grant (US$)
14	Kenya	Information Network	Institution-capacity-building for indigenous information network	Indigenous peoples in the region	32 000	10 000
17	Peru	Comunidad Asháninka Marankiari Bajo	Establishment of a permanent conference of indigenous peoples of Rio Perene in the Province of Chanchamayo	Indigenous peoples of Rio Perene	50 000	12 200 b/
19	India	Indian Institute of Social Work	Human resource development of the Kui people through education, human and indigenous training	Kui people	48 636	10 000 c/
22	Chile	Consejo de Todas las Tierras	Training for Mapuche women in indigenous rights and the International Decade	Mapuche	26 976	10 000
25	India	Santal Welfare and Cultural Society	Socio-political empowerment of the indigenous tribes (Santals) of Litipara Block in Pakur district of Santal Parganas (Bihar) through traditional village councils	Santal, Adivasis	40 990	10 000

Project No.	Country	Organization or community	Title/subject of project	Indigenous populations represented	Request (US$)	Decision on grant (US$)
35	Russian Federation	Academy for the Promotion of the Development of Civic Culture and the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)	Training course on education and training of primary and secondary school teachers in international human and indigenous rights standards	Indigenous peoples of regions of the North, Siberia and Far East	47 142	10 000
37	Peru	Federación de comunidades nativas fronterizas del Putumayo	Training for indigenous leaders	Bora, Huitoto, Ocaina, Maijuna, Cocama, Secoya, Ticuna and Quichua	9 500	7 300
39	Morocco	Association nouvelle pour la culture et les arts populaires-Tamaynut	Training and information on indigenous rights for indigenous peoples of North Africa	Amazighs	114 520	10 000
41	Nepal	Nepal Indigenous Peoples Development and Information Service Centre	Indigenous peoples' human rights education/ training programme	Kirati people	50 000	10 000
42	Colombia	Consejo Regional Indígena del Cauca	Building of strategies for the recognition and management of the inter-family problems in the indigenous communities	Paez, Guambia, Yanacona, Totoró, Guanaca, Coconuco, Pubenences	55 300	15 000 d/
48	Bolivia	Centro de Educación Campesina de Bases	Education and training in legal defence and human rights of indigenous populations in 2 provinces of the Altiplano boliviano	Indigenous communities and indigenous Ayllus in the Department of La Paz	35 815	10 000

Project No.	Country	Organization or community	Title/subject of project	Indigenous populations represented	Request (US$)	Decision on grant (US$)
49	Peru	Comisión jurídica para el autodesarrollo de los pueblos originarios andinos (CAPAJ)	Publication of the Boletín Andino	Aymara, Quechua	3 600	3 600
52	Guatemala	Saqb'e Mayab' Moloj	Publication of the children's newspaper Kukuy	Maya	1 442	5 000 e/
63	Philippines	Dinteg	Education campaign on human and indigenous rights in the Cordillera region	Indigenous peoples in the Cordillera region	43 000	10 000 f/
67	Mexico	Asamblea de Autoridades Zapotecas y Chinantecas de la Sierra	Communication and education for the development of the Zapoteca culture	Indigenous peoples in Oaxaca	30 000	10 000
68	Ukraine	Foundation for the Research and Support of the Indigenous Peoples of Crimea	Creation of an open-database website about the legal, political and cultural achievements and experiences of indigenous peoples all over the world	Indigenous peoples all over the world	5 510	1 000
72	Kenya	Organization for the Survival of Il-Laikipiak Indigenous Maasai Group Initiatives (OSILIGI)	Organization and capacity-building strategy for OSILIGI	Laikipia, Maasai	35 834	10 000 g/
85	Niger	Association nigérienne pour la défense des droits de l'homme	Capacity-building of the Association	Touarègue	14 719	2 500 h/

Project No.	Country	Organization or community	Title/subject of project	Indigenous populations represented	Request (US$)	Decision on grant (US$)
92	Australia	Department of Education and the Yuendumu School Council	Indigenous research into factors that improve vernacular and English-language literacy	Central Australian Aboriginal people	40 000	10 000

TOTAL PROJECT GRANTS = 24 TOTAL = US$ 232,000

Notes

a/ Pending verification by the secretariat that this grant would not duplicate with another grant received from another donor.

b/ The grant is only for the legal advocacy component of the project and for the organization of the "leadership meeting".

c/ The grant should be only used for the part of the project that concerns publications.

d/ The grant is for the organization of the workshops proposed.

e/ The grant is for the publication of one edition of the newspaper.

f/ The grant is to pay the education materials.

g/ Subject to satisfactory narrative and financial reports on the use of the previous grant.

h/ Pending information showing that the organization has experience in assisting indigenous populations (Touarègue).

Annex IV

THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Guidelines for applications for grants concerning indigenous projects

Objectives of the Voluntary Fund

- To support the programme of activities adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/157.

- To provide assistance to projects and programmes advancing the goal of the International Decade: international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education, culture and health.

Who can apply

- Indigenous peoples, communities and organizations, non-governmental organizations and academic and other similar institutions; organizations should be non-profit-making.

- National committees for the Decade.

The organization submitting the project for funding should have the capacity to raise needed additional money from other sources.

Main project areas

1. The programme of activities and objectives of the Decade as well as the recommendations of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action as they relate to indigenous people.

2. Indigenous organizational structures and procedures and their strengthening through education, training, and institution and capacity-building, bearing in mind the need to respect their relevant traditions.

3. Education and training in human and indigenous rights.

4. Information about indigenous peoples and the International Decade.

5. Communications and exchanges between the Untied Nations system and indigenous peoples and between indigenous peoples.

6. Fund-raising initiatives in promoting the objectives of the Decade.

Criteria for selection

- Projects should be of direct benefit to indigenous people in all parts of the world.

- Projects should be prepared by or with full support from and in consultation with indigenous people.

- Projects will be considered taking gender balance into account.

- Particular consideration will be given to projects from underdeveloped areas in different regions.

- Projects will be approved in relevant areas including in particular those relating to the promotion, protection and implementation of human and indigenous rights.

Deadline and consideration of projects

- Projects should be sent to the secretariat of the Fund before 15 February, 1999.

- Complete applications must be filled out in English, French or Spanish.

- Applications for the Voluntary Fund will be considered at the annual session of the Advisory Group in April.

Contributions from the Voluntary Fund

Contributions from the Voluntary Fund will not exceed US$ 50,000.